

# PREPARING FOR A UNIVERSITY INTERVIEW

Impressing at interview is a vital part of the admissions process for students hoping to win a place on the most competitive and popular university courses. To be successful, you'll need to prepare thoroughly and be able to demonstrate passion and flair for your subject. Here's some key things to think about:



**What is your motivation to study this subject at university?** Make notes about why you want to study it and why here. Does this university offer the best course for you? Why?



**If you have undertaken work experience before the interview, note what you did and why it is relevant.** If you did anything specific on your own or under supervision, be ready to explain this.



**What have you read recently in support of your application?** Think about things that you could do to further your love or understanding of this subject. Again - take notes.



**What independent learning have you done recently?** What initiatives have you taken? What leadership skills can you talk about? Take notes of the answers to these questions.



**Re-read your personal statement and make sure you can support any claims you have made.** Have you read the books that you cite recently? Have you read others that you might want to mention? What did you learn? Practise talking about this with a friend or family member.



**Start to prepare answers to some of the common questions that you will be asked** and then PRACTISE answering them.



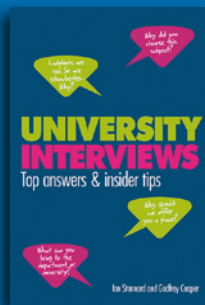
**Arrange a mock interview** - ideally with someone who you do not know that well. Many schools will offer this if you ask for it.



**Think about any pieces of coursework that you have completed that may be relevant.** What did you do? What did you learn? How did the process help you to develop useful skills?



**Think about the final questions part of an interview. What would you ask?** Don't ask banal, dull questions such as 'What is the accommodation like?'. Ask instead about postgraduate opportunities, employment statistics for recent graduates or assessment criteria. These are better questions that show your ambition.



For further guidance read *University Interviews* by Ian Stannard and Godfrey Cooper

To find out more about university application and career choices, visit [Trotman.co.uk](http://Trotman.co.uk)

